

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9894

INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 907

EO 11652 : GDS

TAGS : PFOR MX US

SUBJ : LOPEZ PORTILLO VISIT

REF : LUERS-AMBASSADOR CONVERSATION JAN 23

FOLLOWING IS FIRST PORTION OF VIEWS REQUESTED IN REF

1. INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW

WE BELIEVE MEXICO'S MAJOR OBJECTIVE IN THE VISIT IS TO ACHIEVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PRESIDENTS AS THE BASIS FOR ACHIEVING A DE FACTO "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" AT AN INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL. LOPEZ PORTILLO'S BELIEF THAT THE PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WILL ABET THE INSTITUTIONAL ONE IS BOTH A PROJECTION OF MEXICAN STYLE AND THE REFLECTION OF MODERN MEXICAN EXPERIENCE IN DEALING WITH THE US -- MAJOR PROBLEMS SUCH AS SALINITY AND THE CHAMIZAL WERE RESOLVED ONLY AFTER THE US PRESIDENT BECAME PERSONALLY INTERESTED. SINCE THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" PHRASE HAS CONNOTATIONS OF MEXICAN DEPENDENCY THAT ARE POLITICALLY UNACCEPTABLE IN MEXICO, THE TERM WILL BE AVOIDED; BUT MEXICO IN FACT WILL SEEK OUR COOPERATION IN AREAS AND WAYS WHICH WILL INCREASE ITS DEPENDENCY. THERE ARE STILL HURT FEELINGS RE OUR OVER-PUBLICIZED RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL. MEXICO WILL WANT EQUAL TREATMENT EVEN THOUGH IT IS UNDER ANOTHER FORMAT.

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2. MEXICO MAY BE INTERESTED IN AN INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

(E.G., A BILATERAL COMMISSION) TO ENSURE FOLLOW-UP TO PRESIDENTIAL DECISIONS; IT MAY ALSO BE INTERESTED IN A CONCEPT SUCH AS "NORTH AMERICAN INTERDEPENDENCE" TO SUPPLANT THE OLD "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" (SEE MEXICO 804). WHILE WE THINK EITHER RUNS THE RISK OF TOO CLOSE AN EMBRACE AND AROUSING OPPOSITION WITHIN MEXICO TO RENEWED GOOD

RELATIONS, THE "NORTH AMERICAN" LABEL HAS INTERESTING
POSSIBILITIES, AND MUCH WILL DEPEND ON HOW IT IS FORMULATED.

3. SPECIFIC MEXICAN OBJECTIVES ARE:

-- FINANCIAL HELP FROM THE USG, PRIVATE BANKS, AND THE
INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS FOR ITS IMMEDIATE NEEDS;
-- USG HELP IN RESTORING AN IMAGE OF MEXICO AS A STABLE AND
SAFE PLACE TO INVEST AND TRAVEL.
-- GREATER ACCESS TO US MARKETS, PERHAPS GENERAL
PREFERENTIAL ACCESS, BUT MORE LIKELY AD HOC FAVORABLE
CONSIDERATION ON A VARIETY OF INDIVIDUAL MEXICAN
TRADE CONCERNS, FROM AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO A \$200
TOURIST EXEMPTION FOR RETURNING AMERICAN TOURISTS.
-- AVOIDANCE OF ANY UNILATERAL US ACTIONS TO REVERSE
RADICALLY THE FLOW OF SURPLUS MEXICAN LABOR TO
THE US. (MASSIVE DEPORTATIONS ARE A PARTICULAR CONCERN.)

4. US OBJECTIVES

OUR LONG RANGE OBJECTIVE IS TO ABET THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A POLITICALLY STABLE AND ECONOMICALLY PROSPEROUS
MEXICO -- THE PROSPECT OF AN "ARGENTINA" ON OUR SOUTHERN
BORDER IS NO LONGER JUST A HYPOTHETICAL POSSIBILITY. IN
LONG RANGE TERMS, ANYTHING WE CAN DO WITHIN PRACTICAL
LIMITS TO HELP MEXICO SOLVE ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS SERVES
OUR OWN BEST INTERESTS. HOWEVER, TO HELP MEXICO IN MOST OF ITS
OBJECTIVES LISTED ABOVE ENTAILS REAL SHORT
TERMS COSTS. MEXICO UNDERSTANDS THIS AND MAY BE WILLING
TO PROVIDE COOPERATION TO US IN TURN. OUR SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES INCLUDE:

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A) INCREASED CLOSE NARCOTICS COOPERATION;
B) SIGNIFICANTLY GREATER EXPORTS OF CRUDE OIL;
C) A MORE RECEPTIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR US INVESTMENT;
D) GREATER EFFORTS AT CONTROLLING MEXICAN POPULATION GROWTH;
E) LESS GRATUITOUS OPPOSITION TO US INTERESTS IN
MULTILATERAL FORUMS;
F) INCREASED COOPERATION ON THE US PRISONER ISSUE INCLUDING :
1. EMPHASIS ON HUMANE TREATMENT BOTH DURING ARREST AND
INTERROGATION AND DURING IMPRISONMENT,
2. IMPLEMENTATION OF TREATY ON EXECUTION OF PENAL SENTENCES; AND
3. RESTORATION OF PAROLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR
CERTAIN CLASSES OF DRUG OFFENDERS.

5. CONCLUSION

IN FOLLOW-ON CABLE THAT DETAILS ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL,
POLITICAL, CONSULAR AND OTHER PROBLEMS THAT MAY BE DIS-
CUSSED, WE HAVE NOT ALWAYS MADE SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS
ON US POSITIONS. FUNDAMENTALLY WE SEE THE MEETING OF
PRESIDENTS AS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PERSONAL CON-

TACT, TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A FRESH APPROACH ON BOTH SIDES
AND TO PERMIT BOTH MEXICO AND THE US TO SHOW THE GOOD
WILL AND FLEXIBILITY (I.E. LINKAGES AND TRADE-OFFS) NEEDED
TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE FUTURE ON DIFFICULT BILATERAL PROBLEMS.

6. WHILE THE SYMBOLISM OF THE VISIT IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT
TO MEXICO, AND IT WILL BE ATTENTIVE TO U.S.
EXPLANATIONS OF WHAT IS AND IS NOT FEASIBLE FOR US TO
DO, WE BELIEVE MEXICO WILL BE LOOKING FOR SPECIFIC CON-
CESSIONS AND ASSISTANCE, ESPECIALLY IN THE ECONOMIC AND
FINANCIAL FIELD. IT WILL, EQUALLY AND SIMULTANEOUSLY, BE
EXAMINING THE COURSE OF THE CONVERSATIONS FOR INDICATIONS
THAT IT IS BEING TAKEN SERIOUSLY AND VIEWED AS AN EQUAL
AND INDEPENDENT PARTNER.
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